

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /063 W
-----141208Z 061857 /44

R 141136Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6671
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, IS, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT TO ISRAEL OF JAPANESE DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER

1. JAPANESE DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER HAMADA VISITED ISRAEL JUNE 6-9. HIS VISIT WAS DESCRIBED TO US BY THE JAPANESE EMBASSY (DCM SUGIUCHI) AS ESSENTIALLY A PERSONAL AND INFORMATION VISIT. SUGIUCHI SAID THAT HAMADA, ONE OF THE FEW MEMBERS OF THE DIET SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL, HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN VISITING TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO. AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED ON THE CONDITION THAT HE ALSO VISIT EGYPT AND ARRANGE HIS TRIP IN CONNECTION WITH TRAVEL TO EUROPE INORDER TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF HIS VISIT HERE. HE VISITED EGYPT BEFORE COMING TO ISRAEL, AND ON DEPARTURE WENT ON TO BRUSSELS FOR A VISIT TO NATO AND THEN TO PARIS FOR THE AIR SHOW.

2. DURING HIS FOUR DAYS IN ISRAEL, HAMADA MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PERES AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON. HE DID NOT MEET WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROSPECTIVE LIKUD GOVERNMENT. HE VISITED THE ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES FACTORY AND TOURED INSTALLATIONS
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OF THE THREE ARMED SERVICES. HE DID NOT VISIT THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

3. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY CONSIDERS HIS VISIT TO HAVE BEEN VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE IS THE HIGHEST RANKING JAPANESE OFFICIAL EVER TO VISIT ISRAEL. HAMADA TOLD THE ISRAELIS THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD

PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THIS COULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. THE MFA DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS (HORAM) TOLD US, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT ISRAEL DID NOT ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH THE ISRAELIS WERE ENCOURAGED AND HOPED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL VISITS FROM JAPAN. HAMADA'S VISIT DID NOT RECEIVE MUCH PRESS COVERAGE, ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY WAS CONCERNED THAT IT HAD RECEIVED ANY AT ALL.

4. COMMENT: JAPANESE DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED TO US OF THEIR INABILITY TO GET ANYTHING MORE THAN A MINIMUM APPRECIATION IN TOKYO FOR THE ISRAELI SITUATION. THE HAMADA VISIT CAN THEREFORE BE SEEN AS A MINOR TRIUMPH FOR THE JAPANESE EMBASSY'S PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO GET A LITTLE ATTENTION.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV04241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770211-1105
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770657/aaaabxun.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 766e147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2151165
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO ISRAEL OF JAPANESE DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, IS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/766e147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009